

Collingdale, PA -- On Saturday, January 20, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), a former 3-Star Admiral, attended a ceremony honoring 18 year-old, Eagle Scout recipient Adam James Decker (Troop Number 44). Decker, a native of Norwood, is a graduate of Interboro High School. He is currently a student at Widener University and a member of the ROTC program. One of the requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout is to plan, organize and carry out a community service project. Decker's project consisted of organizing and executing a blood drive that raised 39 pints of blood.

At the event, Joe — a former Cub Scout— talked about the importance of service:

"I am proud today to join with other public officials, and members of the community to honor Adam James Decker on his wonderful achievement," noted Joe. "It is from service organizations such as the Boy Scouts organization where so many future leaders, such as Adam, are drawn from. These community efforts are ones that truly symbolize the principles our country values and what I learned in the Navy: duty, honor, courage."

Also attending the event was Adam's parents Don and Teresa Decker, PA State Representative Ron Raymond, and Collingdale Mayor Frank Kelly.

According to the Boy Scouts of America, the fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on*

*Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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